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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/695,224	10/28/2003	James Nordstrom	James Nordstrom 0001	4942
7590		10/05/2007		
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			EXAMINER	
			ISMAIL, SHAWKI SAIF	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2155	
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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 10/695,224	Applicant(s) NORDSTROM, JAMES	
	Examiner Shawki S. Ismail	Art Unit 2155	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.  
     4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
     a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### **DETAILED OFFICE ACTION**

1. This communication is responsive to the application filed on October 28, 2003. Claims 1-20 are presented for examination.

#### **Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112**

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 1 and 11 recites the limitation:

“Intercepting an electronic mail message sent to the electronic mail account of a child” in claim 1;

“Intercepting an electronic mail message sent from the electronic mail account of a child” in claim 11;

“under control of said parent’s computing device” In claim 1 and 11;

There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

These are representative examples. Applicants should review all pending claims for similar problems. Other dependent claims, which are not specifically cited above are also rejected because of the deviancies of its respective parent claim.

#### **Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102**

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

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(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

4. Claims 1-10, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by

**Bulfer et al.**, (Hereinafter referred to as Bulfer) U.S. Patent Publication No.

**20060036701A1.**

Bulfer teaches an electronic message system provides message filtering for allowing a supervisory user, e.g., a parent, to control the flow of messages to other users, such as a child. E-mail messages and/or instant messages from already approved senders are allowed to pass directly to the child's account. Messages from unapproved senders are forwarded to the parent's account for deletion or approval to forward to the child and/or prospective sender approval

5. As to claim 1, Bulfer teaches a method of controlling an electronic mail message addressed and sent to a child, the method comprising:

under control of a computing device (refer to Fig. 1, child client 102a),

intercepting an electronic mail message sent to the electronic mail account of a child (refer to Fig. 4, ¶ [0030], step 302, child account filter examines the message prior to sending to the account of the child);

redirecting said electronic mail message to the electronic mail account of said child's parent (refer to Fig. 4, ¶ [0030], step 306, the message is forwarded to the parent account); and

under control of said parent's computing device (refer to Fig. 1, parent client 102b),

sending said electronic mail message from the electronic mail account of said parent to the electronic mail account of said child whereby said child is prevented from receiving electronic mail messages deemed inappropriate by said parent (refer to Fig. 4, ¶ [0032], step 318, the message is forwarded to the child account after approval of the parent).

6. As to claim 2, Bulfer teaches the method of claim 1 wherein said electronic mail account is any computing device capable of sending and receiving electronic mail messages (refer to Fig. 1, child client 102a, 102b).

7. As to claim 3, Bulfer teaches the method of claim 2 wherein said parent is any individual or group of individuals (refer to Fig. 1, ¶ [0018]).

8. As to claim 4, Bulfer teaches the method of claim 1 wherein said parent is any individual or group of individuals (refer to Fig. 1, ¶ [0018]).

9. As to claim 5, Bulfer teaches the method of claim 4 wherein the electronic mail account is any computing device capable of storing and retrieving electronic mail messages (refer to Fig. 1, child client 102a, 102b).

10. As to claim 6, Bulfer teaches the method of claim 1 wherein said child is any individual or group of individuals (refer to Fig. 1, ¶ [0018]).

11. As to claim 7, Bulfer teaches the method of claim 6 wherein said parent is any individual or group of individuals (refer to Fig. 1, ¶ [0018]).

12. As to claim 8, Bulfer teaches the method of claim 7 wherein the electronic mail account is any computing device capable of storing and retrieving electronic mail messages (refer to Fig. 1, child client 102a, 102b).

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13. As to claim 9, Bulfer teaches the method of claim 1 wherein the electronic mail account is any computing device capable of storing and retrieving electronic mail messages (refer to Fig. 1, child client 102a, 102b).

14. As to claim 10, Bulfer teaches the method of claim 1 wherein said child is an authority (refer to Fig. 1, ¶ [0018]).

*Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

15. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

16. Claims 11-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Bulfer et al.**, (Hereinafter referred to as Bulfer) U.S. Patent Publication No. **20060036701A1**.

17. As to claim 11, Bulfer teaches a method of controlling an electronic mail message sent from a child, the method comprising:

under control of a computing device,

intercepting an electronic mail message sent from the electronic mail account of a child (refer to Fig. 4, ¶ [0030], step 302, child account filter examines the message prior to sending to the account of the child);

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redirecting said electronic mail message to the electronic mail account of said child's parent (refer to Fig. 4, ¶ [0030], step 306, the message is forwarded to the parent account); and  
under control of the parent's computing device,

sending said electronic mail message from the electronic mail account of said parent to the electronic mail message's addressees whereby said child is prevented from sending electronic mail messages deemed inappropriate by said parent (refer to Fig. 4, ¶ [0032], step 318, the message is forwarded to the child account after approval of the parent).

Bulfer does not explicitly teach wherein a parent intercepts and controls outgoing messages sent from the child account.

Bulfer teaches intercepting and controlling incoming messages addressed to child account in order to prevent unapproved messages from reaching the child account (see abstract)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify Bulfer Email parent Control (EPC) so as to be able to monitor incoming as well as outgoing messages from the child's account. Doing so will allow a parent to better control the electronic messages that are associated with the child account and to identify unwanted or inappropriate messages sent and received by the child account.

18. As to claim 12, Bulfer teaches the method of claim 11 wherein said electronic mail account is any computing device capable of sending and receiving electronic mail messages (refer to Fig. 1, child client 102a, 102b).

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19. As to claim 13, Bulfer teaches the method of claim 12 wherein said parent is any individual or group of individuals (refer to Fig. 1, ¶ [0018].

20. As to claim 14, Bulfer teaches the method of claim 11 wherein said parent is any individual or group of individuals (refer to Fig. 1, ¶ [0018].

21. As to claim 15, Bulfer teaches the method of claim 14 wherein said electronic mail account is any computing device capable of storing and retrieving electronic mail messages (refer to Fig. 1, child client 102a, 102b).

22. As to claim 16, Bulfer teaches the method of claim 11 wherein said child is any individual or group of individuals (refer to Fig. 1, ¶ [0018].

23. As to claim 17, Bulfer teaches the method of claim 16 wherein said parent is any individual or group of individuals (refer to Fig. 1, ¶ [0018].

24. As to claim 18, Bulfer teaches the method of claim 17 wherein the electronic mail account is any computing device capable of storing and retrieving electronic mail messages (refer to Fig. 1, child client 102a, 102b).

25. As to claim 19, Bulfer teaches the method of claim 11 wherein the electronic mail account is any computing device capable of storing and retrieving electronic mail messages (refer to Fig. 1, child client 102a, 102b).

26. As to claim 20, Bulfer teaches the method of claim 11 wherein said child is an authority (refer to Fig. 1, ¶ [0018].

27. Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings of the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures



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may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant in preparing responses, to fully consider the references in its entirety as potentially teaching of all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shawki S Ismail whose telephone number is 571-272-3985. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached at 571-272-4006. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Shawki Ismail  
Patent Examiner  
September 17, 2007



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